GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3019
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Retail Price of Essential Items
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the retail prices of sugar, potato, chana dal, rice, wheat and milk in the current year;
(b) whether the prices of the above food items have increased or decreased from the last year;
(c) the details of the increase or decrease; and
(d) the stance of the Government with regard to the increasing prices of essential food commodities like sugar and potato and the steps taken to arrest this increasing trend?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) to (c) : The All India average retail price of sugar, potato, chana dal, rice wheat and milk in the current and previous year; and the yearly rate of variation are given in the table below:

Commodities	All India Average Retail Price (Rs/kg)		
	Price As On 15/03/2017	1 Year Ago 15/03/2016	% Variation over 1 Year
Sugar	42.43	34.73	22.17
Potato	13.44	14.99	-10.34
Chana Dal	88.4	65.34	35.29
Rice	28.87	26.78	7.8
Wheat	24.39	23.25	4.9
Milk	41.04	39.75	3.25

Source: State Civil Supplies Department
(d) : Government has issued order imposing stock holding and turnover limits on dealers of sugar currently valid till 28.04.2017. State Governments/UTs have been advised to enforce this order to prevent any speculative and hoarding tendencies. Custom duty of 20% has also been imposed on export of sugar to discourage further exports. In case of potatoes, import duty was reduced from 30% to 10% and Minimum Export Price of USD 360 was imposed to improve domestic availability and help moderate its prices during the period when prices were under pressure. Government has also set-up Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to tackle price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like pulses, potatoes and onions to protect the interests of consumers.

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